

Success in School Shouldn't Be Such a Hard Climb.

CAAE

California Alliance
for Arts Education
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THE SUCCESS
OF MILLIONS
OF CALIFORNIA'S
STUDENTS IS
AS EASY AS . . .



[Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and . . .]

the Arts!

"The arts are fundamental resources through which the world is viewed, meaning is created, and the mind is developed."

ELIOTT W. EISNER
IN THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS FRAMEWORK
FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IN THE PAST, for a student to become a contributing member of society, just learning the "three R's" was often enough.

**Not anymore.
There's a fourth R.**

In today's challenging environment, students must cultivate and exercise their creative intelligence. Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic must be mastered, but the fourth "R"—aRts education—is a vital cornerstone in the foundation of human development.

The arts can help cultivate students' abilities to be adaptable, responsible, problem-solving members of the twenty-first century workforce. By engaging in arts experiences and studying the arts, students can develop self-worth, see things from a different perspective and understand and appreciate the heritage of many cultures. This increased knowledge, skill and involvement will inspire enthusiasm and commitment to learn.

And here's the proof . . .

FACT: Low-achieving students in the Los Angeles "Humanitas" program made gains equivalent to those made by high-achieving students elsewhere. This program has reached 3,500 students in twenty high schools. Students in the program wrote quality essays, showed more conceptual understanding of history and made more interdisciplinary references than non-Humanitas students.

("The Humanitas Program Evaluation 1990-91", by Pamela Aschbacher and Joan Herman, 1991.)

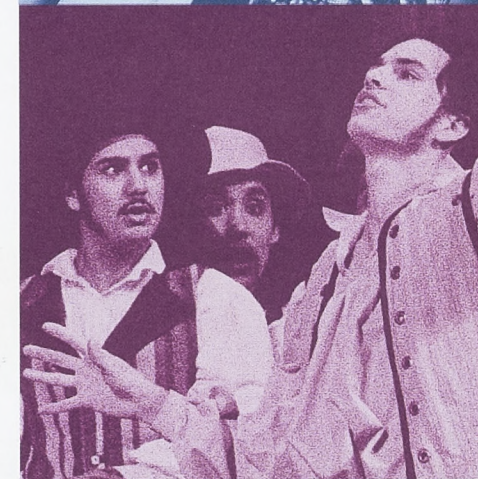
FACT: In 1995, SAT scores for students who studied the arts more than four years were 59 points higher on the verbal and 44 points higher on the mathematics portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.

("Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers", The College Board, 1995.)

FACT: Originality and imagination scores were significantly higher for preschool children with disabilities after participation in a dance program than for those participating in the standard adaptive physical education program. ("Effect of a Dance Program on the Creativity of Preschool Handicapped Children", by Danielle Jay, 1991.)

The above results were taken from *Eloquent Evidence: Arts at the Core of Learning*, a pamphlet published by the Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 920, Washington, D.C. 20005

By simply lifting a finger,
you can help influence the success
of millions of California's students.
Read on . . .



Arts Education plays a crucial role in improving a student's ability to learn.

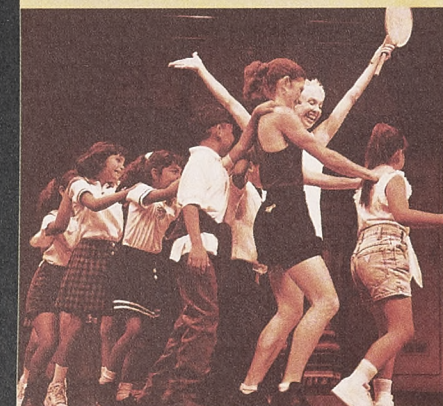
According to Harvard researcher Howard Gardner, the arts encompass a wide range of intelligences—not just linguistic and logical, upon which most academics are based.

The arts help prepare students for jobs in a technologically advanced information age.

Theatre, music and dance are collaborative efforts that encourage communication.

The arts cultivate cooperative learning and planning as well as encourage problem solving. These qualities are vital to success in today's work force.

DANCE



ARTS IN REAL LIFE

DAVID COLBERT

Occupation: Telecommunications Consultant, San Diego
Avocation: Ballet Dancer

"I was lazy in my youth. If anything got too tough, I'd try something else" says David. At age 17, he tried dance exercise to increase his flexibility for sports. That soon led him to ballet.

"Ballet exposed me to an amazing challenge: learning the value of concentration and focus. For the first time I discovered I could really improve if I was disciplined and just kept plugging away."

He also learned an important business trait—the value of self responsibility and teamwork. "On stage you dance alone, but you've got to be available to support others—the performance depends on it."

When David's dance troupe performs for children, he's amazed by the rapt attention of his audience. He explains, "Ballet is like life. It encompasses the body, mind, and spirit of the entire pantomime of life—love, joy, death, sadness."

After a performance, during our question and answer sessions, the children—even the boys—express an overwhelming appreciation for this experience and a deep respect for an art form that just an hour ago seemed nothing more than a cliché."



HOWARD GARDNER



Reading, writing, and math skills are enhanced through the arts.

Some schools have discovered the seamless way in which the arts connect one subject to the next so it makes sense to students. For instance, the study of history, science, and math can be connected through the arts and architecture of ancient civilizations. In this way, the arts provide compelling ways for students to relate to the accomplishments of people of other times and cultures.

High-risk students are helped through the arts. Students who have had difficulty learning find that the arts touch them at a profound level, validating different ways of learning and expressing oneself.



"We cannot create observers by saying 'observe,' but by giving them the power and the means for this observation; these means are procured through education of the senses."

MARIA MONTESSORI



Music



ARTS IN REAL LIFE

PAMELA DASSENKO

Occupation: Dentist, San Luis Obispo
Avocation: Symphony Concertmaster, Concert Violinist

At age 2, Pamela watched her mother give music lessons to other children and then tried to imitate her. By four she was playing piano, and by six she had taken up the violin.

"For me, music was like sports," she explained. "It taught me discipline and how to accept delayed gratification, because it takes a long time until music is mastered the way you want to hear it played."

While these qualities served her well in dental school, music continues to play an important role in her life. "Music remains a great release for my emotions. It helps me balance the stress of work with a creative outlet that adds depth and meaning to my life," she says.

Today Pamela believes her daughter's study of piano and cello has played a significant role in improving her ability to read and focus in other subjects.

She explains, "In my work with the youth symphony, I've noticed big differences between children who play music and those that don't. The musicians have excellent concentration skills, meaningful creative outlets, and higher self-esteem. I know music is the reason."



Imaginative learning techniques cultivated through arts education help students develop skills that will be required for living and working in the information age.

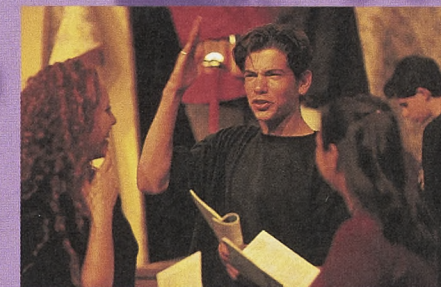
Most new technologies and media use images, sound, and movement as conduits for information. The successful marketing of any product or service requires a high level of aesthetic awareness. This is what imaginative learning strives to develop.

Theatre education provides students with invaluable skills for comprehending and analyzing a barrage of visual and aural information that has become part of modern life.

Engagement in theatre experiences stresses how those who control the media use the elements and principles of theatre to affect people's ideas and emotions. Students learn firsthand the elements of presentation and the power of the media.

Theatre

ARTS



ARTS IN REAL LIFE

DOLORES JIMINEZ

Occupation: Clinical Psychologist, San Francisco
Avocation: Actor, Director

Despite a case of the jitters when she was encouraged by a high school drama teacher to try out for a play, Dolores won a part and expanded her world.

"Theatre exposed me to new ideas and perceptions, and taught me how different life can be for each of us," she says. Theatre also introduced her to public speaking, which has become an invaluable career tool.

Today, when she isn't speaking at conferences or holding workshops, Dolores helps organize student theatre projects—particularly for ethnic communities.

She says, "Theatre is a profound teaching tool. It helps students expand their awareness and presents them with different ways of understanding and dealing with personal and family issues, as well as with painful social issues like discrimination and racism."

Dolores adds, "Whether they're in front of the lights or helping backstage, I've watched kids' talent emerge, their self-esteem grow, and their understanding of the world blossom."



"When members of a society wish to secure that society's rich heritage, they cherish their arts and respect their artists."

MAYA ANGELOU
POET AND AUTHOR



Arts education helps students appreciate the full array of life's physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual experiences—all vital benefits in an era where television and electronic clutter can overload and anesthetize the senses.

The arts awaken a student's ability to imagine; they cultivate an ability to develop creative solutions, and contribute to the aesthetic beauty, balance, and richness of our communities.

Learning occurs openly and freely when students feel safe and worthwhile.

Good art teachers make this possible by providing opportunities to understand the richness of diverse cultures—their artifacts, styles, crafts, music, dance and traditions—as well as their contributions to civilization. The arts encourage students to create an environment where shared responsibility, common goals and mutual respect become the rule, rather than the exception.

VISUAL Art



ARTS IN REAL LIFE

JESSIE TUCKER

Occupation: Plant Manager, Los Angeles
Avocation: Ceramics and Drawing

At the Inner City Arts center where Jessie works, neighborhood children have an opportunity to learn a variety of art forms.

"My job is taking care of maintenance, sanitation, security, and making sure these children feel safe," he says.

Jessie never took art classes in school, and—although he is an artistic person—never received encouragement to do so. "In sixth grade I taught myself how to draw comics, but I was too shy to show them to anyone," he remembers.

Jessie witnesses the difference art makes in the children he sees everyday. "The kids love it! It gives them something creative to do and gives them a way to express themselves, helping them use pictures and forms to say things they can't say in words. I see it really building their self-esteem."

When he has a spare moment, Jessie takes a class at the center. "Sometimes the kids ask me for help. They'll draw me, then I'll draw them. We're learning from each other," he says. Art is making a difference for Jessie.

He explains, "In the past, I spent my leisure time watching TV. Now I'm stimulated to learn, read art books, and create. I've got a new sense of calm and control now and I'm enthused and caring about others."



"When I examine myself and my method of thought, I come to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing knowledge."

ALBERT EINSTEIN



Arts Education Supports Student Success. Now and for the Future!

Lift a finger to make a phone call. Lift a finger to write a letter. Lift a finger to reach out and get involved. It's Easy. Read on.



Student Success Is in Your Hands.

"Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves, and to others, the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
P R E S I D E N T

When the arts are part of the core curriculum in California schools, our students have the creative ticket they need to succeed—not only today, but throughout their lives.

The arts inspire collaboration, enhance communication skills and boost self-esteem.

They encourage problem-solving and mutual respect while facilitating the learning of core subjects.

Most important, they help develop the essential skills for successfully living and working in today's fast-paced information age.

Your assistance is needed right now. Time is running out. Please take a moment to do your part. By helping arts education today, you can ensure a brighter future for our students, our communities, and our entire society.

Simply refer to the enclosed information for a variety of practical tips to support Arts Education in your community. You'll also find sample letters that make it easy for you to share your enthusiasm for Arts Education with your colleagues and neighbors. *You can* make a difference!

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